

## HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

### *Key Findings: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, United States*

*Almost one-quarter of U.S. 18- to 29-year-olds were enrolled in higher education, the highest enrollment rate among the G8 countries presented. Females had a higher enrollment rate than males in all countries except Germany.*

In 2001, 24 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds in the United States were enrolled in higher education (figure 21a). This enrollment rate was higher than that of all other countries presented.

The enrollment rate in higher education of females exceeded that of males in all of the countries presented except Germany. This difference ranged from 2 percentage points in the United Kingdom to 5 percentage points in Italy, with Canada, France, and the United States having a difference of 4 percentage points between male and female enrollment. Whereas females had higher education enrollment rates of at least 20 percent in three

of the countries shown, only in the United States did males have a higher education enrollment rate that was at least 20 percent.

Figure 21a shows the higher education enrollment rates of 18- to 29-year-olds broken down into two separate age groups, 18- to 24-year-olds and 25- to 29-year-olds. With the exception of Germany, the enrollment rate of each country's 18- to 24-year-old population is at least two times higher than that of its 25- to 29-year-old population. In 2001, about one-third (34 percent) of 18- to 24-year-olds in the United States were enrolled in higher education, compared to 10 percent of its 25- to 29-year-old population who were enrolled at this level. Besides the United States, France also had at least 30 percent of its 18- to 24-year-old population enrolled in higher education. Enrollment rates of 25- to 29-year-olds in higher education ranged from 5 percent in France to 12 percent in Germany.

### *Definitions and Methodology*

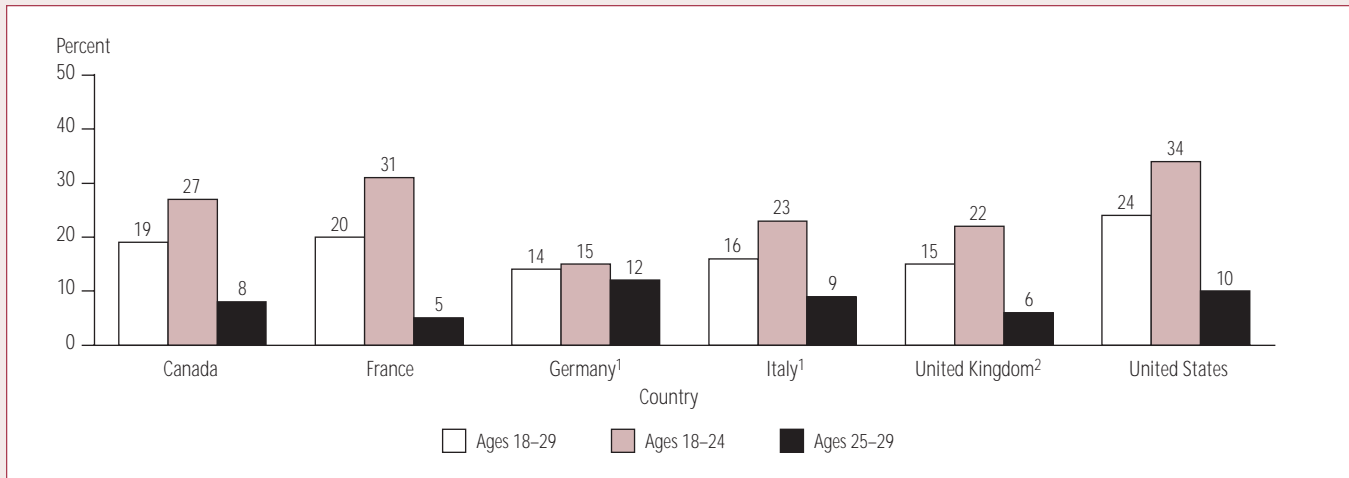
Educational levels are defined according to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). Higher education refers to ISCED level 5A (academic higher education-first stage), 5B (technical and vocational higher education), and 6 (academic higher education-second stage/ doctoral studies). For a complete description of the ISCED levels, see the appendix.

The percentage of the population at given ages enrolled in education is called an "enrollment rate." In this indicator, the term

"enrollment rate" refers to "net enrollment rate," and is defined as the number of students in a particular age group enrolled in education divided by the population of that same group. Enrollments include full-time and part-time students in public and private institutions of higher education, ages 18 to 29 in 2001.

In Germany and Italy, enrollment data for students enrolled in doctoral studies were not available.

Figure 21a. Percentage of the population ages 18 to 24 and 25 to 29 enrolled full time and part time in public and private institutions of higher education, by age and country: 2001



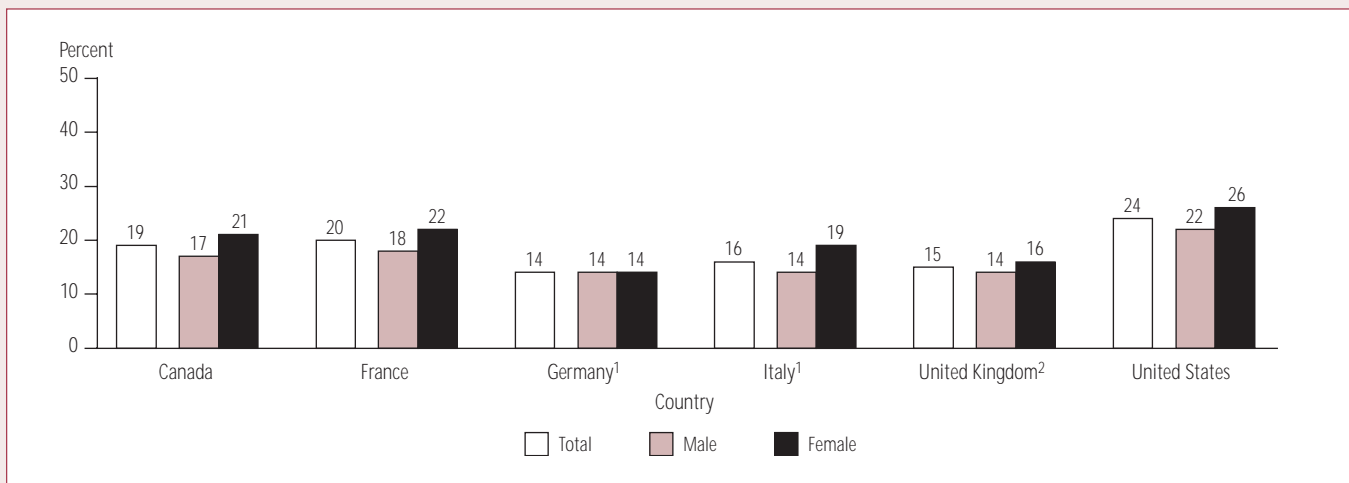
<sup>1</sup>Enrollment data for students enrolled in doctoral studies are not available.

<sup>2</sup>The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

NOTE: Higher education refers to ISCED level 5A (academic higher education-first stage), 5B (technical and vocational higher education), and 6 (academic higher education-second stage/ doctoral studies). Figure includes both full-time and part-time enrollment. For more information on ISCED levels, see the appendix.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development OECD, 2003, unpublished data.

Figure 21b. Percentage of the population ages 18 to 29 enrolled in public and private institutions of higher education, by sex and country: 2001



<sup>1</sup>Enrollment data for students enrolled in doctoral studies are not available.

<sup>2</sup>The United Kingdom includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

NOTE: Higher education refers to ISCED level 5A (academic higher education-first stage), 5B (technical and vocational higher education), and 6 (academic higher education-second stage/ doctoral studies). Figure includes both full-time and part-time enrollment. For more information on ISCED levels, see the appendix.

SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), 2003, unpublished data.